

REMARKS

Claims 42, 43 and 50-60 have been cancelled. The amendment to claim 41 is supported by claim 43. Claims 44-46 and 49 have been clarified. Claims 61, 65 and 69 are supported by claim 44. Claims 62, 63, 72 and 73 are supported by the specification, page 10, lines 24-27. Claim 64 is supported by claims 41 and 43. Claims 66-68 are supported by claims 45-47, respectively. Claim 70 is supported by claim 48. Claim 71 is supported by claim 49.

No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 41, 44-49 and 61-73 are present in the application, and claims 41, 44-46, 48, 61-67, 69, 70, 72 and 73 are active.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 43 and 48 are free of the prior art. Accordingly, applicants have incorporated claim 43 into claim 41; claim 48 is already independent.

The rejections of claims 41, 42 and 44-46 under 35 U.S.C. 102, have been obviated by appropriate amendment. Claim 43 has been incorporated into claim 41. Withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claim 48 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. The metes and bounds of the phrase "under conditions of moderate to high stringency" is well understood by those of ordinary skill in the art, since the terms "moderate stringency" and "high stringency" are well defined terms in the art. For example, the specification, page 10, line 24 to page 11, line 3, provides examples of the conditions needed to achieve "moderate stringency" and "high stringency", and how to vary such conditions between "moderate stringency" and "high stringency". Furthermore, Ausubel et al., a well known reference work, also provides details of conditions which will achieve "moderate stringency" and "high stringency". Accordingly, claim 48 is not indefinite. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Upon the indication of allowability of the claims under examination, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 47, 49, 68 and 71. These withdrawn method claims depend from the active product claims.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notice of such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Rauch', written over a horizontal line.

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